



This week's stories from the media

- 15 public schools close
- SACE ceremony back on
- Schools score poorly in encouraging physical activity
- New 'stripped back' curriculum just political
- Boys outnumber girls in private schools
- Priority Covid testing for kids
- Call for new School Of The Air facilities

SACE Ceremony Back On

The SACE Merit ceremony at Government House for high-achieving Year 12s has been saved after the government overruled the SACE Board's decision to cancel it.

The SACE merit ceremony will be revived as a face-to-face event at Government House, as the state government steps in after a backlash from parents and schools at its cancellation over Covid concerns.

Education Minister Blair Boyer said he only discovered the SACE Board had canned the annual celebration when he was alerted to The Advertiser's story – at the same time he was at the Australia Day Council of SA's awards at Government House on Wednesday evening.

Mr Boyer said there was no good reason not to go ahead with the SACE celebration in light of a full crowd being allowed at Friday's Showdown and other awards ceremonies also being held in-person.

[Read](#)

15 Public Schools Close

The number of public schools closed across the state has jumped to 15 overnight and more closures are expected before the term ends as Covid wreaks havoc across the education system.

The Education Department said as of Wednesday, 10 sites had transitioned entirely to remote learning, and Education Minister Blair Boyer said a further five were announced overnight.

"It has climbed a little bit in the last few days, of course you have to give that a bit of perspective in the context of the entire public system it's not a lot but I completely accept for those schools, for those staff students and parents its pretty tough out there," Mr Boyer told ABC Radio Adelaide on Thursday.

He said he suspected more schools would close in coming days.

"Given the advice that we have from SA Health ... that we anticipate that we are in the peak at the moment ... I would think that before the school term ends in the final days next week we are probably going to have schools added to that list," he said.

It comes as the latest data shows that on Tuesday, about 7350 students – or 4.2% of all of those learning in government schools – were absent for Covid-related reasons.

That compares with 3.1% on March 21.

Meanwhile, 567 teachers and 386 school services officers were away.

[More](#)



“...Tuesday, about 7350 students – or 4.2% of all of those learning in government schools – were absent for Covid-related reasons....”

Schools Score Poorly In Encouraging Activity

Less than a quarter of Australian children and young people are meeting the national physical activity guidelines for their age group, sparking health concerns among professionals.

The 2022 Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Young People data revealed that Australian children scored a D- in overall physical activity; a grade that has remained the same since the report card launched in 2014.

“These findings are really concerning because the guidelines provide a minimum amount of physical activity that is needed for health and wellbeing”.

Currently government guidelines recommend that children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 accumulate at least 60 minutes of intensive physical activity daily, with an extra activity that strengthens bones and muscles three times per week.

[More](#)

New ‘Stripped Back’ Curriculum Just Political

It’s being touted as a change that will lead to better results but critics of a new ‘stripped back’ curriculum warn “the devil will be in the detail”.

Children will have to do more maths without a calculator and learn about consent and respect in a new “stripped back” school curriculum available from next term.

They will also learn more about the impact the British settlers had on First Nations Australians and about Australian democracy.

History has also been “significantly decluttered”, allowing more time for in-depth teaching, and there will be more emphasis on phonic in English, according to ACARA.

The overhaul follows Australia’s steady decline in the international education rankings over the past decade.

It will be available online from the start of next term.

[More](#)



More Boys In Private Schools

Many co-ed private schools are struggling to attract enough girls to create an even classroom balance – but gender equity is on the way up.

An analysis of enrolment data for 22 prominent Adelaide private schools has found 15 have more boys than girls.

Of those 22 schools, 13 report their percentage of girls has risen between 2016 and 2021.

At the 2016 Census, there were 105 school-aged boys for every 100 girls.

Flinders University Professor David Curtis said Adelaide’s larger number of girls’ schools than boys’ campuses was contributing to the imbalance in coeducation enrolments.

[Full Story](#)

Priority Covid Testing For Kids

Children can access the priority lane in Victoria Park if they need to obtain a PCR test as a result of a classroom exposure.

When seeking a PCR test families should:

- Say that they are obtaining the PCR as a result of a classroom exposure.
- Supply communication they receive recommending the child get a PCR test as a result of an outbreak or cumulative cases in their room, to the team at Victoria Park.
- Enter via the Halifax St entrance to Victoria Park to access the priority lane.

Call For School Of The Air Facilities

Outback parents are calling on the SA government to build new school facilities for School of the Air.

School of the Air provides remote education for primary school-aged children who live in the outback, some of them hundreds of kilometres from any major towns.

When students do get to meet in person, they meet at the School of the Air facilities at Augusta Park Primary School.

However, the Isolated Children’s Parents Association is now calling for SOTA to have its own facilities.

School of the Air head of campus Lai Kwan Lim said that the school’s current facilities were ageing and in need of an update.

[Read more](#)